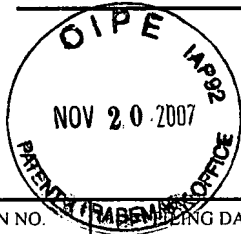




UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/526,770

02/28/2005

Alan Foster

007520-000002

6942

30565

7590

11/19/2007

WOODARD, EMHARDT, MORIARTY, MCNETT & HENRY LLP
111 MONUMENT CIRCLE, SUITE 3700
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204-5137

EXAMINER

SANDY, ROBERT JOHN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3677

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

11/19/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

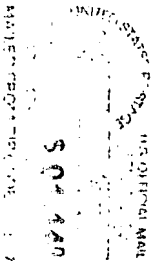
The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

RECEIVED
NOV 20 2007
USPTO MAIL CENTER

P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
If Undeliverable Return in Ten Days

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



Interview Summary

Application No.

10/526,770

Applicant(s)

FOSTER, ALAN

Examiner

Robert J. Sandy

Art Unit

3677

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Robert J. Sandy.

(3) _____.

(2) Elizabeth A. Shuster (Reg. No. 52,672).

(4) _____.

Date of Interview: 14 November 2007.

Type: a) ☒ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
c) ☐ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☒ No.

If Yes, brief description: _____.

Claim(s) discussed: _____.

Identification of prior art discussed: Vig et al. (4,887,824); Kramczak, Jr. (2,799,514).

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☐ was reached. g) ☒ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: See Continuation Sheet.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

- attached fax of proposed claims.


ROBERT J. SANDY
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.

Examiner's signature, if required

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: Discussion of the proposed claims (see attached "Proposed Claims for Discussion During Interview") where, as for proposed claim A1, it would appear that the subject matter pertaining to " wherein said first magnet is disengageable from said second magnet.." does not have any support in the originally filed disclosure, and may constitute new matter. As to proposed amended claim 1, the subject matter pertaining to "and in which in other angular positions the second magnet is free of the influence of the first magnet so as to permit free rotation unless and until re-registration occurs", and to proposed claim 14 the subject matter pertaining to "the co-operable component that is mounted on the rotary plate is free of the influence of the co-opereable component that is mounted on the non-rotary plate", each would at least require compliance with USC §112, 1st paragraph, enablement with respect to the originally filed disclosure. Proposed claim B1 appears to suffer from the same USC §112, 1st paragraph, issue of claim 14. No agreement to patentability has been determined with respect to proposed claims 1, A1, B1, and 14..

WOODARD, EMHARDT, MORIARTY, MCNETT & HENRY LLP

PATENT AND TRADEMARK ATTORNEYS

111 MONUMENT CIRCLE, SUITE 3700
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-5137

Main: (317) 634-3456 Fax: (317) 637-7561

www.uspatent.com**FAX COVER SHEET**Date: October 31, 2007Number of Pages: Cover sheet plus 3 page(s)CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPT REQUESTED IF CHECKED: ☐ORIGINAL COPY AND ANY ENCLOSURES ☐ WILL
☒ WILL NOT BE SENT

To: Examiner Robert John Sandy

Company: US Patent & Trademark Office

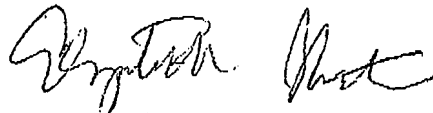
Your Reference: US Application No. 10/526,770 to Alan Foster

Fax Number: (571) 273-7073

From: Elizabeth A. Shuster

Our Reference: 007520-000002

Comments: I have attached the proposed claims amendments for discussion during our scheduled Wednesday, November 14, 2007 telephonic interview at 1:30 p.m.



Elizabeth A. Shuster, Reg. No. 52672
Woodard, Emhardt, Moriarty, McNett & Henry LLP
111 Monument Circle, Suite 3700
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-5137
(317) 634-3456

If an error occurs during transmission please contact us at: (317) 634-3456

THIS MESSAGE IS INTENDED ONLY FOR THE ADDRESSEE(S) IDENTIFIED ABOVE.

It may contain privileged, confidential, attorney work product, or trade secret information that is exempt from disclosure under applicable laws. If you are not the intended recipient, or an employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, or copying of this message is strictly prohibited. If you have received this facsimile in error, please notify the sender immediately by telephone and return the facsimile (and all copies) to the sender by mail at the above address. The sender will reimburse you for reasonable expenses incurred. Thank you.

#493980

Application No.: 10/526,770
Confirmation No.: 6942
First-Named Inventor: Alan Foster
Filing Date: February 28, 2005
Group Art Unit: 3677
Examiner: Sandy, Robert John
Attorney Docket No.: 007520-000002
Title: CASTORS

PROPOSED CLAIMS FOR DISCUSSION DURING INTERVIEW

A1 (New). A swivel castor, comprising:

a cap;

a support bracket configured to rotate about a vertical axis;

a wheel configured to rotate about a horizontal axis, said wheel rotatably mounted to said support bracket;

a first pair of magnets, said first pair of magnets including a first magnet co-operable with a second magnet, said first magnet attached to said support bracket and said second magnet attached to said cap, wherein said first magnet is operable with said second magnet to restrain said support bracket from rotation about the vertical axis; and

wherein said first magnet is disengageable from said second magnet so that said support bracket is free to rotate about the vertical axis.

A2 (New) The swivel castor of claim A1, wherein said cap defines a recess sized to receive said first magnet and said second magnet.

A3 (New) The swivel castor of claim A1, wherein said first magnet is operable with said second magnet while said first magnet is aligned with said second magnet.

A4 (New) The swivel castor of claim A1, further comprising:

a second pair of magnets, said second pair of magnets including a third magnet co-operable with a fourth magnet, said third magnet attached to said support bracket, said fourth magnet attached to said cap, wherein said third magnet is operable with said fourth magnet to restrain said support bracket from rotation about the vertical axis; and

wherein said third magnet is disengageable from said fourth magnet so that said support bracket is free to rotate about said vertical axis until said third magnet is operable with said fourth magnet.

A5 (New) The swivel castor of claim A4, wherein said first pair of magnets are located approximately 180 degrees from said second pair of magnets.

A6 (New) The swivel castor of claim A4, wherein third magnet is operable with said fourth magnet while said third magnet is aligned with said fourth magnet.

B1 (New) A support structure for a castor, comprising:

a first plate spaced apart from a second plate, said first plate and said second plate coaxially aligned about a vertical axis;

a bearing means positioned between said first plate and said second plate, wherein said first plate is rotatable about the vertical axis and said second plate is stationary with respect to said first plate;

a first pair of magnets mounted on said first plate; and

a second pair of magnets mounted on said second plate, said first pair of magnets are co-operable with said second pair of magnets while said first pair of magnets are aligned with said second pair of magnets to restrain rotation of said first plate about the vertical axis;

wherein said first pair of magnets are rotatable away from said second pair of magnets to disengage the magnetic influence between said first pair of magnets and said second pair of magnets and allow rotation of said first plate about the vertical axis.

1. (Currently amended) A support structure for a castor comprising a first member, a second member that is rotatable with respect to the first member about a pivot axis, and magnetic means that is operable up to a certain torque to restrain movement of the second member from one angular position with respect to the first member, wherein said magnetic means comprises a first magnet associated with the first member and a second magnet associated with the second member, ~~said first magnet being coaxially aligned with respect to said second~~

magnet and in which in other angular positions the second magnet is free of the influence of the first magnet so as to permit free rotation unless and until re-registration occurs.

14. (Currently amended) A support structure for a castor, comprising:

- (i) first and second plates located in co-axial, spaced apart relationship so as to provide mutually facing surfaces,
- (ii) bearing means located between the plates whereby one plate is rotatable with respect to the other plate, and
- (iii) one component of at least one pair of co-operable components being mounted on each plate, at least one of which pair of components is a permanent magnet adapted, in one angular position of the rotary plate with respect to the non-rotary plate, to be brought into registration with a relatively small air gap between adjacent surfaces of the two co-operable components to create a magnetic flux that, up to a certain torque restrains rotation, and in other angular positions without registration, in which the co-operable component that is mounted on the rotary plate is free of the influence of the co-operable component that is mounted on the non-rotary plate, permits free rotation unless and until re-registration occurs, ~~wherein said components of said at least one pair of co-operable components mounted on each plate are co-axially aligned with respect to one another.~~